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High Court guts abortion rights

Outraged Boston demonstrators, including large numbers of lesbians and gay men, block July 4th traffic in protest

By Leigh Peake

BOSTON — The Supreme Court's July 3 decision gutting *Roe v. Wade*, which had legalized abortion 16 years ago, sparked anger and outrage here and around the country. Within hours of the announcement of the High Court's decision in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, pro-choice activists demonstrated, rallied and vowed to take their fight to maintain women's rights and legal abortion to the streets and to state legislatures nationwide, where the struggle will next get played out.

The night of the decision, an angry crowd mobilized in Boston at the Federal Court House in Post Office Square. The following day — Independence Day, as many activists ironically noted — another rally at the Massachusetts State House culminated in a violent conflict with police, resulting in two arrests.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the rally, pro-choice forces — including large numbers of gay men and lesbians —

pense.

Local women's health activist Beverly Smith described how the *Webster* decision only solidifies restrictions which were already in place for poor women and women of color. "Poor women's access to abortion was curtailed in 1977 [when the court ruled that Medicaid funding could not be used for abortions]. Black, Latina and poor women have always had less access to abortion regardless of the court's decisions and regardless of state laws."

The pro-choice community's response to the decision was one of outrage but certainly not disbelief. Many protesters expressed a tendency to expect the worst of the U.S. judicial system. Attendance at Monday's march and rally in Boston — which organizers from NOW and the Reproductive Rights Network — estimated at over 1500 despite the holiday weekend, suggested the degree to which Boston's pro-choice majority is mobilized.



A protester is mauled by two cops at the July 4 demonstration

claimed the streets for an impromptu, illegal march through downtown Boston. As marchers continued to the Esplanade, where picnickers awaited an evening concert and fireworks display, the protesters' message was clear: the freedom and independence marked by July 4 celebrations nationwide apply only to privileged men.

Even as activists discussed how the decision to give states broad latitude to establish increasingly restrictive laws, the impact was felt immediately. According to news reports, in Missouri two hospitals had already begun refusing to perform abortions as of Monday afternoon.

Uniformly, activists agreed that the decision will primarily affect poor women, women of color and young women — whose access to abortion has traditionally been limited by both lack of information and ex-

"What was once a judicial battle," Jennifer Jackman, president of Massachusetts NOW, told *GCN*, "is now a political battle," one for which the community is quickly becoming prepared.

At least half an hour before the rally was officially to begin, a sizeable crowd had gathered at Post Office Square. Speaking to this early group, Dominic Bozzotto, head of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union, said, "Let everybody understand that you're mad.... The issue is respect for women; if they don't believe you're equal, they don't give you a choice."

Ellen Convisser, president of the Boston chapter of NOW, described her outrage to *GCN*. "This is just one in a series of attacks by the Supreme Court — on civil rights, on affirmative action, on the rights of

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Marilyn Humphries

Gay cruising spot under surveillance

Rash of 'tearoom' busts by cop who brags about harassing gays

By Jennie McKnight

BOSTON — Reports of a recent flurry of arrests at the Back Bay train station "tearoom" have caused concern among frequenters of the popular gay cruising spot and raise questions about allocating limited police resources to deal with bathroom busts. At least two men were charged with open and gross lewdness after being arrested by AMTRAK police, according to the reports.

One frequenter of the cruising area, which is a men's room located in a station used by both AMTRAK and the Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) — Boston's public transportation system — said he saw a man he recognized as an AMTRAK police officer "hanging out" in the tea room in plain clothes on June 30. The arrests of the men took place earlier in the week.

AMTRAK police in Boston refused to comment on the arrests and spokesperson Clifford Black, who is stationed in Washington, D.C., said he had no knowledge of the arrests. He said, however, that because the men's room is in a station served by both rail companies, AMTRAK and MBTA police have shared jurisdiction. When asked whether AMTRAK officers commonly operate in plainclothes, he said "There are some, but I don't know if it's operating procedure."

MBTA spokesperson Nancy Sterling-Gleason confirmed that the Back Bay station is patrolled by both police forces and said MBTA police had not been involved in the recent arrests. "MBTA police have made one arrest at that station in the last three months, and it was in May," she said. That arrest was also for lewdness, according to Sterling-Gleason.

A source in the Area D station of the Boston Police Department who spoke to *GCN* on the condition of anonymity reported hearing an AMTRAK patrol of-

ficer "bragging about how he harasses the gays." Area D is just a few blocks away from the train station and is where the arrested men were reportedly held. (AMTRAK has no jail facilities of its own.)

Another frequenter of the cruising spot who wished to remain anonymous said he thought the men who cruise there should inform each other of the potential danger. "I'm glad I know [about the arrests], and I hope other people will be willing to spread the word," he said.

Spreading the word may be difficult since many men who frequent the tearoom are commuters from the suburbs who may not have other contact with the gay community. Yet another anonymous tearoom-goer said he thought the population of Back Bay cruisers included "many guys from the suburbs who don't have access to each other's dicks out there."

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), also stressed the importance of spreading information about the arrests. "People need to be careful, because I have heard of police arresting people [at the Back Bay station], and I've also heard people in the gay community say that's a safe place to cruise. There are no completely safe places to cruise. I urge people to keep their eyes open and their wits about them."

Cathcart added that the arrests in the Back Bay station highlight the pervasiveness of police surveillance of public cruising areas. "Most people in the lesbian and gay community don't have any idea how many people are arrested and how often it happens. It's pretty constant. A lot of people are charged with felonies, and a many of the arrests are bogus because people are arrested without doing anything illegal. But these charges are often impossible to fight because

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Quote of the week

"It wasn't a male and a female, so I don't know if you would call it sex."

State Senator Thomas Magee (R — New Hampshire) referring to a June 10 "bachelor party" he attended at a local hotel, in the Boston Globe. The party of about 50 men was broken up by a State Liquor Commission investigator when he "discovered the women apparently having sex together," according to the Globe report. The Globe said that the two women who were "performing" for the men were strippers. The commission is investigating whether or not any state liquor laws were violated.

Dannemeyer loses libel suit against gay paper

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A libel suit filed by U.S. Representative William Dannemeyer (R — Calif.) against the *Bay Area Reporter (BAR)*, a weekly gay and lesbian paper, was dismissed by a superior court judge in early June.

Dannemeyer alleged that a memo the *BAR* reprinted October 8, 1987, was libelous. The memo was purportedly written by Charles Rund, Ronald Reagan's deputy campaign manager for polling in 1984. The memo discussed attacking Democrats as being soft on AIDS issues as a tactic that could be used in the 1988 election. Dannemeyer, who has consistently introduced AIDS-phobic legislation, was described as being "far too emotional" to be of any help to the GOP with respect to AIDS issues. The memo also characterized Dannemeyer as "foaming at the mouth" and said that he was "a live grenade."

The court ruled that the *BAR* article was protected under both California's "fair comment" doctrine and the First Amendment. The court also held that Dannemeyer does not have a case for libel because the reprinted memo expressed the opinion of the author and was not a literal statement of facts.

□ Deb Schwartz

Hate crimes act passes House

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives soundly passed a bill that would require compilation of data about bias-related crimes. By a margin of 368-47, the House voted in favor of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (H.R. 1048), which, if approved by the Senate, would require the Justice Department to collect data about bias-related crimes motivated by race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Not surprisingly, the most vocal opponent to the act was Rep. William Dannemeyer (R — Calif.), who blasted the bill because it violated the "heterosexual ethic." Dannemeyer said that those who want to express their displeasure with "homosexuals" should not be punished. "When you affirm the heterosexual ethic in society, that value is necessarily in conflict with homosexuality," said Dannemeyer.

A companion bill is awaiting debate in the Senate. Lobbyists from the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force expect much more opposition in the Senate. The Hate Crimes bill passed the House last year, but died in the Senate. The opposition in the Senate is led by Sen. Jesse Helms (R — N.C.).

□ Kelly Gaines

American Indian gay men and lesbians to meet

MINNEAPOLIS — The Second Annual Gathering of American Indian Gays and Lesbians is scheduled to meet at a Wisconsin campground August 24 through August 28. The purpose of the gathering is to facilitate networking of American Indian gay men and lesbians throughout the continent. Last year, the first gathering was held here and attracted more than 80 Native American participants from the U.S. and Canada.

This year's agenda will include workshops

and a talent show. There will also be space for recreation and spiritual observance. The gathering is organized by the American Indian Gay and Lesbian group in Minneapolis and is open to all American Indian gay men and lesbians and their partners and families.

Registration is \$40. Limited cabin space is available for Elders, disabled people, and people with AIDS. Donations are needed to offset costs already incurred.

For further information, contact American Indian Gays and Lesbians, P.O. Box 10229, Minneapolis, MN, 55458-3229, or call Cindy at (612) 649-1699, Lee at (612) 870-4848, or Deb at (612) 724-7277.

□ Mike Riegler

Dial-a-porn covered by First Amendment — sort of

WASHINGTON — By a 6-3 vote the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a law against "dial-a-porn" telephone services. The law had never gone into effect because parts of it were invalidated earlier by a federal district court in Los Angeles.

The Court said that it was unconstitutional for Congress to require the country's adult population to comply with standards fit for children. All nine members of the Court agreed that the 1988 law banning "indecent" telephone messages was a violation of the First Amendment. However the three dissenting justices — Brennan, Marshall and Stevens — also objected to the portion of the majority opinion that allowed for laws to be passed banning "obscene" messages. The opinion did not specify the difference between "obscene" and "indecent" communications.

□ Mike Riegler

Amnesty's Swedish branch votes to support gay prisoners

KARLSTAD, Sweden — The Swedish branch of Amnesty International joined branches from Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada, Austria, Great Britain, Greece and others favoring the "adoption of prisoners jailed because of their homosexuality." The vote was 148-99 and was taken at the annual conference of the Swedish section. At the same time they also voted 164-89 to have its steering committee work actively on the international level to change Amnesty's position against working with prisoners jailed because they are lesbian or gay.

The vote reaffirms the stand taken three years ago but defeated the following year by the Swedish section.

□ Marc Stein

ACT UP/NY zaps 'Forbes, The Capitalist Tool'

NEW YORK — On June 20 about 50 members of ACT UP demonstrated at the offices of *Forbes*, the business magazine, to protest an article entitled "Straight talk about AIDS." The article, an interview with Michael Fumento, author of the forthcoming *The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS*, asserts that heterosexuals need not worry about getting AIDS, and that projections about new cases worldwide are "worthless."

ACT UP member Andrew Velez said the article is "irresponsible journalism...which plays into reactionary fears and wishes of bigots that AIDS is a disease that belongs to people outside of white, heterosexual America."

Playing on *Forbes'* slogan "the capitalist tool," activists carried small shovels and chanted "The shovel is a capitalist tool; how many AIDS graves will *Forbes* dig?" Some placards read, "Malcolm, at least get your facts straight," referring to publisher Malcolm Forbes, known for attending AIDS fundraisers with friend Elizabeth Taylor.

A small group from ACT UP was invited inside to meet with Forbes, and they demanded that ACT UP be offered space in

the next issue for a rebuttal to Fumento. An ACT UP fact sheet pointing out the many errors in the article will appear along with an editorial from *Forbes* denouncing Fumento's opinions as "asinine."

Another demonstration is planned for this fall when Fumento's book appears.

□ Mike Riegler

One gay victim of German Nazis receives compensation

BONN, West Germany — In 1988, only one gay person received the 5000 deutsche mark (\$2800) compensation made available by the West German state as part of a \$168 million special fund for gay victims of Nazi oppression, according to a report of the Ministry of Finance analyzed in Chicago *Outlines*. Two applicants were rejected and seven are still being considered.

The fund was made available in 1987. Between 1953 and 1987, 23 gay men and lesbians applied for compensation from the state and ten received money. Of the \$43 billion distributed during this period to Nazi victims and the state of Israel, \$28,000 went to gay men and lesbians.

Geunter Dworak, a representative of Bundesverband Homosexualitat (BVH), the Federal Federation of Homosexuals, criticized the program because it excludes those with income of more than 1200 marks per month. "The fund also comes too late. Most of the victims are dead and those who are still alive are demoralized by West German society and the situation of homosexuals over the years, so they don't want their homosexuality known to public institutions."

Nonetheless, the existence of the fund specifically earmarked for gay men and lesbians is seen as an important accomplishment by BVH activists.

□ Marc Stein

Broome County pulling together

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — The new Broome County Gay Alliance is now forming and all interested in becoming "Founding" members are encouraged to become involved. Broome County encompasses over 250,000 residents, and although there was a BCGA years ago, it has dwindled away. The new BCGA will be a non-profit group which will assist, educate and support lesbian and gay county residents.

For more information, contact Richard Thomas, P.O. Box 424 S.V.S., Binghamton, NY 13903.

□ Richard Thomas

Skinheads arrested for anti-gay violence

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Police here recently arrested eight teenagers, some of whom admitted that they are members of Buffalo-Rochester Aryan Skin-Heads (BRASH), for a series of attacks on gay men.

One of those arrested, a 16-year-old believed to be one of BRASH's leaders, said his group would lure gay men into the depths of a city park and beat them. Then they would send the man's wallet to his family with a note saying that the man was gay.

The arrests were made after police began surveillance of the park following numerous reports of attacks by gay men.

□ Marc Stein

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AIDS

Support groups now forming at Project Aware for individuals with AIDS and AIDS Related Complex (ARC), and those who have tested HIV positive.

Project Aware is an AIDS counseling and educational program of Stanley Street Treatment and Resources. For more information, call 679-5222. Confidentiality assured.



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Abortion

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women."

While many activists saw the demonstration at Post Office Square as basically tame, there were outbursts of dancing and shouting in the streets. As the crowd stepped off to march to Government Center, many sang with local activist Jennifer Abod.

There was a strong lesbian and gay male presence at the demonstration. Local gay activist Derek Link told *GCN* that he was there because "the issue is control of one's body. Gay people are denied that right. [These are] different sides of the same coin." Similarly, Laura Briggs, a lesbian member of Mass. ACT OUT, said that "[Abortion] has become a symbolic issue of who has the right to control our bodies and lives. [The decision] is an attack on all women's right to control their sexuality and, by extension, on all women who choose [lives] other than that of the nuclear family."

In front of City Hall the march was punctuated by a spontaneous die-in, representing the deaths of many women by illegal abortion. The speakers at the rally which followed all emphasized both the immediate need for the pro-choice community to "hit the streets," and the degree to which "an injury to one is an injury to all." Nancy Gertner of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, who argued the *McRae* case, spoke to "people who are watching or reading about this demonstration.... It's time to realize you can't sit this one out."

Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy, the only potential gubernatorial candidate to speak out clearly in favor of abortion rights, also addressed the crowd. She noted that this was "a sad day in the nation's history.... Tomorrow, we're supposed to celebrate freedom and independence, but [they have] taken this away from women.... Tomorrow, instead of celebrating, let us redirect ourselves. I ask you to stand up for choice until we make this state the best state in this nation for the protection of that right."

In a speech which had the entire crowd cheering wildly, local activist and Mass. ACT OUT member Margaret Cerullo decried the decision, saying it revealed the Reaganites' "arrogant fantasy... where men were men, men were white and straight, Blacks had their place, lesbians and gay men had their closets, and women were silent." Appealing to the community to "turn a

critical eye on our own movement," Cerullo emphasized that "those of us who are older must move over and share power with those who are younger; those of us who are white must share power with women of color; and those of us who are straight must recognize the presence of lesbians and gay men in the movement." Cerullo ended her moving and rousing speech with the painful story of her own illegal abortion.

Women of color who addressed the crowd emphasized that the *Webster* decision has the greatest impact on poor women and women of color. Community activist Renae Scott said that "in the past few years [she had] experienced the most blatant forms of oppression," particularly "the erosion of civil rights laws across the country.... We are here to say 'no' to oppression."

Elba Crespo of the Puerto Rican women's community described the "repressive climate in this country" and added that Puerto Rican women "are no strangers to repression. The U.S. has chosen to protect their economic interests over the interests of people." Calling for unity across movements, Crespo argued that the right to choose means more than the right to choose abortion. "It means the right to self-determination. It means accessibility.... It means the right to affordable housing and quality, affordable health care."

Karen Sneiderman of the Disabled People's Liberation Front said the decision "did not surprise [her].... I'm used to being treated as though I'm a second class citizen." She, like Scott, reminded the crowd that the High Court has recently attacked many communities, including the recent decision that "it's perfectly okay to execute mentally disabled people."

Claiming the streets

While the rally sponsored by Mass. Choice, the Massachusetts affiliate of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), at the State House on July 4th, certainly focused on the same themes as the previous day's rally, the demonstration itself was completely different. The intervention of police into the demonstration, in an effort to clear Beacon Street for traffic, escalated into a spontaneous protest against the use of force by police and a march to claim the streets. Comparing Tuesday's protest to that of the day before, one

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The 'Webster' decision

Although the Court stopped short of literally overturning the historic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, in upholding *Webster*, the Court, in effect, gutted *Roe*. It allows states to enact highly restrictive abortion laws which have been heretofore unconstitutional under *Roe*.

The Missouri law, which was challenged in *Webster*, prohibits the use of public funds, public medical personnel, and public facilities to perform abortions, and it also requires expensive and often dangerous "viability" tests for a fetus at 20 weeks.

The Court also upheld the preamble to the Missouri law which states that "life begins at conception" — a clear challenge to the trimester structure set forth in *Roe*. Under *Roe*, the State has no power to intervene in a woman's right to choose abortion during the first three months, or first trimester, of pregnancy. The State is permitted by *Roe* to intervene when it feels it has a compelling interest in a life or "potential" life. By allowing states to determine when "life" begins and, thus, when the State has a compelling interest, the Court has clearly opened the door to numerous challenges to *Roe*.

The majority opinion

Webster was decided by a 5-4 vote. Three Reagan appointees, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy, joined William Rehnquist, who was elevated to Chief Justice by Reagan, and staunch conservative Byron White to form the majority. In writing for the majority, Rehnquist argued that, "The facts of the present case...differ from those at

issue in *Roe*. Here Missouri has determined that viability is the point at which its interest in potential human life must be safeguarded. In *Roe*, on the other hand, the Texas statute unconstitutionally criminalized the performance of all abortions, except where the mother's life was at stake.... [However] to the extent indicated in our opinion, we would modify and narrow *Roe* and succeeding cases."

O'Connor, in a separate opinion, agreed that the Missouri law should be upheld, but skirted around the *Roe* issue. "There will be time enough to re-examine *Roe*," she wrote, "And to do so carefully."

The dissenters

Harry Blackmun, the author of *Roe*, wrote the dissenting opinion and was joined by William Brennan, Thurgood Marshall and John Paul Stevens. With carefully chosen, angry words, Blackmun wrote, "Today, *Roe v. Wade* and the fundamental constitutional right of women to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy survive, but are not secure.... Never in my memory has a plurality announced a judgment of this court that so fomented disregard for the law and for our standing decisions.... The plurality decision is filled with winks and nods, and knowing glances to those who would do away with *Roe* explicitly, but turns a stone face to anyone in search of what the plurality conceives as the scope of a woman's right under the Due Process Clause.... Thus, not with a bang but with a whimper the plurality discards a landmark case of the last generation and casts into darkness the hopes and visions of every woman in this country who had come to believe that the Constitution guaranteed her the right to exercise control over her unique ability to bear children."

"For today," Blackmun and the dissenters concluded, "the women of this nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows."

□ Leigh Peake

Kelly Gaines contributed to this story.

Demonstrators protest 'cultural McCarthyism'



WASHINGTON — Over 1000 people protested outside the Corcoran Gallery of Art here June 30. Artists, lesbian and gay activists, and civil libertarians continue to decry the gallery's cancellation of an exhibit by gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe [see *GCN*, July 2].

Ten 50-foot slides of Mapplethorpe's work were projected on the facade outside of the gallery as the Coalition of Washington Artists, a number of local art groups, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) rallied the demonstrators. The crowd shouted "shame, shame," and some present referred to the gallery's cancellation as "cultural McCarthyism."

"We need art not bigotry," said Sue Hyde, director of the NGLTF's Privacy Project. "We're here to defend the First Amendment, which is the best friend the gay and lesbian community has, the best friend artists have...and we will never give it up to Jesse Helms [a right-wing Republican Senator from North Carolina]."

□ John Zeh

Boston health center opens new facility

Fenway's ground breaking ceremony is successful, but controversy about benefit lingers

By Deb Schwartz

BOSTON — City officials and representatives from the Fenway Community Health Center (FCHC), a neighborhood center specializing in lesbian and gay health, gathered to praise FCHC in a June 29 ground-breaking ceremony for its new facility.

In his invocation, Reverend Scott Alexander of the Unitarian Universalist Association spoke of the new building as a "workhouse for our dream, our lovely dream that every human is entitled to decent, affordable medical care...that every citizen of this city will have a clean and caring place in which to receive it."

The FCHC's new facility at 5-11 Haviland Street will be an 18,000 square-foot, three-story building located directly across the street from the existing medical center at 16-22 Haviland. The FCHC is currently spread out over three sites: 16-22 Haviland, 93 Massachusetts Avenue, and 332 Newbury Street, the location of the now-defunct Gay and Lesbian Health. The new building, nearly double the size of its existing space, will allow the center to consolidate and expand its medical and mental health services and programs and continue its strong response to the AIDS crisis.

The FCHC offers a wide range of HIV-related services from research to testing to treatment. The FCHC established the country's first freestanding HIV outpatient treatment center, the only such clinic in the state and the largest non-blood bank site that provides testing and care for persons with AIDS and HIV infection. It is also the largest anonymous HIV counseling and testing site in New England. The FCHC's research department has achieved national recognition for its epidemiological research and experimental drug treatment trials.

In addition to these HIV-related services, the FCHC offers the Victim Recovery Project for victims of anti-gay and lesbian violence, the Lesbian and Gay Helpline, a lesbian and gay substance abuse counseling program, and an alternative insemination program.

MBH Associates donated construction of the new building's exterior, valued at roughly two million dollars. The original owner of the site will retain ownership of a parking lot to be built on ground level and deeded to the FCHC the three floors to be built above ground. The FCHC's Capital Cam-

paign and Building Project will raise an additional two million dollars which will be used to build the interior, furnish equipment, and cover operating expenses.

Mayor Flynn, Councillors Rosaria Salerno and David Scondras, Stephen Coyle of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, were among the speakers at the ceremony. All praised the FCHC for providing health care to a diverse public and remaining a strong leader in the fight against AIDS.

Dale Orlando, Executive Director of the FCHC, emphasized her commitment to making quality health care affordable and accessible for the diverse group the center serves, which includes area residents, elderly and student populations, as well as lesbians and gay men. Orlando also stressed the



FCHC's ongoing efforts to foster diversity among its professional staff as well as its clientele. "This is a health center that is truly a place of healing regardless of races, cultures, and genders. It's a rainbow building...(and) we will continue to recruit a racially and culturally diverse group of doctors and healers," she said.

Benefit controversy continues

Orlando's remarks had an added significance in light of the recent benefit performance staged for the Building Fund which many have labeled racist. The FCHC-sponsored "P'town Review" featured six gay and lesbian comics who usually perform in Provincetown [see *GCN*, June 26]. Big Ed and Tony Rose were the targets of the ac-

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GCN Job Opening Promotions/Classifieds

Available mid-August. Increase sales of GCN through subscriptions, newsstand, and bookstore sales. Use direct mail campaigns, renewal notices, exchange advertisements and other promotional techniques. Secure revenue-producing classified advertisements.

Qualifications: Experience in sales, advertising, marketing, and finances desirable, but will train. Copy writing ability and graphics/design skills helpful.

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To apply for these positions, please send resume and cover letter to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

“Community Voices” and “Speaking Out” are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and “Speaking Out” contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and “Speaking Out” contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Letter and “Speaking Out” contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. “Speaking Out” contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Denouncing our real enemies

Dear *GCN*:

We were disturbed by the “Speaking Out” by Stephen Skuce about partner notification, even though both of us agree with his position that partner notification is not a good way to protect people from contracting AIDS and is an unacceptable breach of confidentiality.

Over the years, Denise McWilliams, through the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) AIDS Law Project, has been acknowledged by people with AIDS (PWAs), as someone who advocates for them with integrity, sensitivity, persistence and strength. (Neither of us is a disinterested party here — when our friend Bob Andrews brought a suit against his dentist, who advertised extensively in gay newspapers, because the dentist refused to treat him when told that Bob had AIDS, it was McWilliams who won an important settlement against the dentist. He now must treat PWAs. Also both of us are former members of the GLAD Board of Directors.) In denouncing her as an evil enemy of people with AIDS and of the lesbian and gay community, Skuce forgets this history and distorts her, and GLAD’s, work.

We don’t want this letter to be some mushy plea for people to be *nice* to each other. As Skuce rightly emphasizes, the issues here are real. AIDS isn’t *nice*. However, McWilliams has alerted the community to the danger that many people, women especially, face when their partners are engaging secretly in risky behaviors, and demonizing GLAD or McWilliams or even the AIDS Action Committee (AAC) does little to help anyone creatively understand and grapple with this difficult problem.

Maybe because dealing with AIDS is so extremely painful and frustrating, we often seem to lash out at the target closest to us. For example, Skuce denounces GLAD and AAC for negotiating with the state legislature. However, remarkably, nowhere does he denounce our real enemies — the legislators themselves! There is a *difference*, in terms of politics, motivation, and power,

between Denise McWilliams or Larry Kessler and someone like Senator Arthur Lewis.

Activists “burn out.” Often we say this happens because the work is hard, or because we don’t take enough vacations, or because no one ever tells us what nice people we are. “Burn out,” however, happens when activists are personally trashed and marginalized by each other until continuing to work productively is virtually impossible. Instead, we desperately need to debate issues and ideas and feelings with one another with respect and support. We don’t have to like one another. We don’t have to agree with one another’s strategies or politics. But we hurt and limit ourselves and our community when we cut ourselves off from our true friends.

Love,
Amy Hoffman
Robert Stone
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

In defense of open discussions about dangerous legislation

Dear *GCN*:

I must, of course, respond to “In support of Denise McWilliams” [*GCN* June 18-24], in which I am roundly attacked, and McWilliams is unqualifiedly defended, by “Board Members and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD).” To begin with, let me remind *GCN*’s readers that the issue here is supposed to be H.226, a bill drafted by (among others) Denise McWilliams of GLAD and Larry Kessler of the AIDS Action Committee. This bill effectively destroys the confidentiality laws currently in place in Massachusetts, and allows doctors *at their own discretion* to instruct the State to inform sexual partners and medical care providers of their patient’s HIV status. (This review is necessary here because the authors of McWilliams’ “defense,” sadly enough, never addressed the bill at all.) Additionally, let me point out that Kessler and McWilliams, rather than the organizations for which they work, were singled out for my criticism because those organizations have not (thankfully) officially endorsed, or at least publicly advocated, H.226. (A point to ponder, by the way.)

First of all: to those McWilliams supporters who feel compelled, in discussions of this crucially important bill, to “leave it to Denise and others ... to address the specifics of H.226, “I can only say that if you’re not prepared to take a stand on what amounts to a clear case of PWA bashing, you should perhaps refrain from commenting at all. We don’t have time for this easy “don’t you dare yell at my friend” shit in a time of crisis, and when there’s a dangerous anti-PWA legislation looming.

The column’s author are quick to leap to the defense of a friend who got yelled at in the paper. But to do so in a context in which the issue at hand — H.226 — is totally ignored, is an act of shameful moral cowardice, and betrays a contemptible lack of concern for thousands of individuals, many of whom are ALSO “members of our community.” Lucky Larry and Denise: their hurt feelings as “members of our community” matter much more, it seems, than the unmentioned “members of our community” who may die as a result of legislation Larry and Denise helped draft.

The idea of a unified community is important to all of us. But speaking of “knee-jerk oversimplification,” let me point out that *ACT UP/Boston didn’t start this*. We didn’t just wake up one day and decide it would be fun to dish Kessler and McWilliams in the paper. Like McWilliams, we too must keep abreast of “the volumes of ever-changing, often contradictory new medical information,” and no one in ACT UP/Boston is paid to do it; we do it on our own time, and that leaves us little time for nonsense. The legislation came first, not our criticism of it, and the men and women of ACT UP/Boston are *not* about to let PWAs face discrimination (and worse) for the sake of community harmony or because someone’s feelings may get hurt if we don’t keep quiet — even if the feelings are those of a dedicated and valuable community leader. My column addressed legislation that absolutely, unquestionably ruins the confidentiality laws the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (MGLPC) worked so hard to pass in 1986. And that legislation was not drafted by Billy Bulger or Arthur Lewis. Had it been, it might have been easier to defeat. As it is, the Department of Public

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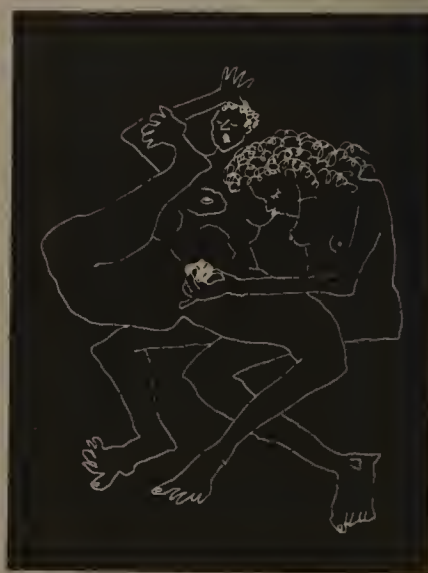
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Health, the bill's sponsor, is running around selling it as legislation that was drafted by the gay and lesbian community itself. The point is that it *is* different when such legislation is drafted by our own community, and that is why my "attack" had to be so forceful. So ACT UP/Boston is accused of "divisiveness." We had no choice. Is H.226 not "divisive," pitting, as it does, people with AIDS against "the rest of us?" And on the topic of a unified community: I hope the state's bisexuals realize they're the most immediate targets of this legislation, and have been sold up the river by "community leaders" in order to appease right-wing extremists and make all us well-behaved and self-contained gays more palatable to straights.

I came out in 1970 — a time when coming out could mean much more than merely acknowledging one's homosexuality. For me, coming out has comprised a serious, ongoing, and heartfelt examination of issues of sex-, race-, class-, and economically-based oppressions, an examination founded in large part on study and adoption of radical lesbian and feminist analysis. I am not — repeat NOT — about to blithely accept being branded a "misogynist" because I dared to criticize the professional demeanor of a person who happens to be a woman. In fact I find it astonishing that individuals who thoughtlessly accuse others of misogyny fail to recognize the logical conclusion of their own defense of McWilliams: the patently patronizing, indeed flatly sexist argument that a gay man is not to criticize her *because she is a woman*. Add to this the plainly classist argument that this professional with a law degree could make more money "downtown," with its implication that her contribution is somehow more important or valuable than that of an uneducated individual (no matter what form that contribution takes) and there's little left to say, except that while I may have criticized McWilliams — admittedly in strong terms, *which the gravity of her error entirely justified* — at least I criticized her openly and honestly, and as the educated, independent, adult professional she is. Unlike her "defenders," I DID NOT PATRONIZE HER, and I wonder which McWilliams prefers: being openly challenged in a community forum on the specifics of crucially important legislation, or defended by a bunch of supporters who could find little to say except that she does good work, that her law degree means she could be making lots more money elsewhere, and that a gay man who criticizes her must be a misogynist, because she is a woman.

It's easy (*and* stupid, *and* sexist, *and* patronizing) to accuse people of misogyny because they openly criticize a professional woman for work she did while being paid to do it. It's also an example of "character assassination," which will be found nowhere in my "Speaking Out" column but is readily apparent in theirs.

We are asked by McWilliams' supporters simply to acknowledge the good work she's done, how hard she works, and how much money she could make elsewhere, and then to dismiss as "divisive" the idea that SHE AND LARRY KESSLER AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION could ever make a mistake. Let me go on record as a staunch supporter of all the good work Denise McWilliams has done. For it she has my genuine thanks and true admiration. And I never suggested that McWilliams is "growing rich off the lesbian and gay community," but rather that she and Kessler are indeed PAID by the lesbian/gay community. In any case, I guess we're supposed to be grateful that we get our dangerous, shitty legislation at half the price.

The final irony is that McWilliams' defenders bemoan the fact that my column "appeared on the eve of Gay Pride Week," because it was "arrogant, divisive, and potentially destructive." If it is "divisive" to attempt to stop legislation that endangers the lives of, most immediately, *my own community*, then divisive I am. Sorry if that ruined anybody's Pride celebration. But then people with AIDS who've been shit on by their own community don't get much of a kick out of Pride either. Please, let's get our priorities straight: what's more "destructive," open discussion of dangerous legislation drafted by our own "community leaders," or people who are unwilling even to discuss it?

Stephen Skuce
Cambridge, Mass.

Class politics of violence versus rudeness

Dear GCN:

We are two white, working class lesbians who feel that we must say something about two articles which have recently appeared in the paper. The June 4-10 article "Lesbian Poet Harassed at Awards Ceremony" seemed an odd choice for a major news story. Homophobia happens every day and usually in a more virulent form than "rudeness." In the past two weeks two of our lesbian friends were physically attacked in the parking lot of the local mall and the brother of a close friend was hospitalized after a brutal attack in the Fenway Gardens. Physical violence as well as state-sponsored homophobia (such as the foster care policy) happen all the time. Most of these happen to be people who have little or no access to the press and thus are ignored and hidden by the general public. To spend so much news space on what amounts to lack of social grace is insulting to those lesbians who suffer life-threatening violence. We are sorry that Minnie Bruce Pratt heard her "little voices inside say 'you're no good, you don't deserve this'...." But we are also sorry that GCN, with so precious little space, would devote so much of it to a fairly inconsequential matter.

As annoying as this story was, however, it was not as bad as the next week's "My Dream of a Radical Graduation." From the outset we must say that we read GCN because it is one of the few papers which has a commitment to covering issues concerning women of color. But we also feel that a lengthy article on a college graduation — even when the speech was given by Audre Lorde — is simply *not* news. The very notion of calling a graduation from a mostly white, upper-middle class school "radical" is preposterous and downright insulting to all of those women (and men) who are by lack of privilege and access unable to pursue their educational desires. To spend so much time and space covering such an elitist event as an Oberlin graduation demeans all the rest of us who have had to work to put ourselves through schools we could afford to go to (usually state colleges and universities) in order to qualify for low paying or shitty jobs. This criticism in no way reflects on what Lorde said — she remains one of our best thinkers and writers — but printing the speech in another part of the paper would have done service to Lorde's words and not insulted those of us who have no chance of going to a "good school" and who lack the class background, money and privilege that are prerequisites for an Oberlin graduation.

We are alarmed by these two stories and hope that they are not a harbinger of where GCN is going. There is a lot of shit out in the world — real shit like violence and discrimination — and GCN spending time and energy on "rudeness" and the social gatherings of the upper-middle class need to be examined and corrected.

Yours,
Tracy Turner
Linda Sponelli
Somerville, Mass.

Hard to look at their sad faces

Dear GCN:

I would like to tell you about this camp (prison). It is a small place (300 guys, the smallest in Florida). Most prisons here have 700 to 1200 or more. Where I am gays are not harassed by the administration as long as they're not caught in sexual acts. I know most (or a lot) of prisons do harass gays. The prison I was in before I was sent here I was raped by 3 guys and beaten because I would not give in to their threats. It took almost 50 stitches to close up my mouth and over the eye. It is scary and very depressing to have this done to anyone.

Also they have a reception and medical center here. Today I had to go there for X-rays, and an ambulance brought a young man in with AIDS. It looked sad. Do you know that in that hospital alone there are now 65 men dying of AIDS.

It is very hard to see their sad faces. You know, I'm a licensed LPN on the streets and never seen this much all at once. And a lot of them have lost their friends and family. So I say to all, please don't let your friends down. The AIDS people need friends and love. Very bad.

Joseph Moseley
711014 ID 310
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E. Palaika, FL 32131

Toward multicultural diversity

[GCN received this "Speaking Out" submission, which is a copy of a letter sent to the Fenway Community Health Center (See GCN, June 25-30.)

Dear Friends:

This letter is written by a diverse group of lesbians in the Boston area who have joined together to work against racism.

Gay and lesbian communities everywhere have long been divided along lines of color, sex, age, physical ability and class. The events which occurred in connection to the recent Fenway-sponsored Provincetown Review benefit performance, and particularly, Fenway's inadequate response both on the night of the performance and in the June 18-24 edition of GCN, starkly highlight the fact that we still have a very long way to go in terms of combatting racism in our community.

Certainly, gays and lesbians are familiar with oppression because of the very nature of our lifestyles and life choices. However, it is a fallacy to expect that we can all be brought together because of the commonality of *our* oppression. The differences that further define us still need to be acknowledged and understood if they are to be respected. Furthermore, to accept the use of offensive stereotypes as humor is to assume that we have been able to transcend the oppression of racism. In reality, we are barely able to confront racism in each other, much less within ourselves. Ironically, it is within ourselves that we must begin.

If a cohesive, loving, supportive and strong gay and lesbian community is what we seek, then the responsibility is upon each individual and each institution within our community to courageously denounce actions and attitudes which perpetuate divisions among us. In their GCN apology, Dale Orlando and Harry Collings refer to the "racism which offended many of us in the audience." We all need to understand that racism is not offensive merely to those offended by it. Racism is offensive and dangerous to each and every one of us.

As of late, Fenway has begun to openly confront the homogeneity of its organization, both in its staff and administration and in the clientele which the health center attracts. Along these lines, we felt particularly heartened by Dr. Barbara Herbert's response in the same GCN. Dr. Herbert courageously and eloquently exhibited her grasp of the enormity of this problem as it specifically applies to the Fenway Health Center. By your heedful support of Dr. Herbert, you can begin to work towards the very goals and vision put forth by your agency. We applaud this beginning step.

However, a truly multiculturally diverse organization has several comprehensive characteristics in its definition. According to Bailey Jackson and Rita Hardiman ("Organizational Stages of Multi-Cultural

Awareness," unpublished paper, 1981):

1. A Multicultural Organization reflects the contributions and interests of diverse cultural and social groups in its mission, operations, and product or service delivery.

2. A Multicultural Organization acts on a commitment to the eradication of social oppression in all forms within the organization. It is also sensitive to the possible violation of the interests of all cultural and social groups whether or not they are represented in the organization.

3. A Multicultural Organization is one where the members of diverse cultural and social groups are full participants at all levels of the organization, especially in those areas where decisions are made that shape the organization.

4. A Multicultural Organization follows through on its broader external social responsibilities. Specifically, this includes its responsibility to support efforts to eliminate all forms of social oppression. This also involves the support of efforts to expand the multicultural ideology.

We offer this definition to you that you might begin an adequate and appropriate assessment of your organization in contrast to your stated goals. There are organizations in the Boston area which can assist you in your commitment to develop an agency which is truly multicultural. Although this is not currently within our capacity, we would like to offer ourselves to you for purposes of resource referral and in order to continue the dialogue begun by this recent event. We would also like to offer support to those members of the Fenway staff and administration who are clearly struggling within Fenway to make these goals a reality. Hopefully, that means all of you.

The contact person in our group is:

Vivian Carlo
82 Montebelo Road
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-6267

We look forward to your response in the near future.

In love and struggle,

Carla Poindexter
Jennifer Abod
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The opinions expressed in Speaking Out are those of the author(s) and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Used to care more about muscles than sticking together

Dear GCN:

First I would like to thank you for caring about the Brothers and Sisters who are incarcerated. I know of no other gay publication anywhere across this country that gives us support, help, insight, pride and a voice than that of Gay Community News. And to the many sponsors out there who have helped make it possible for us to receive GCN weekly, we thank you much!

When I first entered this institution in 1986, I was shocked to see that the gay brothers cared not so much about sticking together, but rather more about some handsome stud graced with muscles! Things have started to change though, and for the better. My friend and I have begun to build the foundation of a project here within the institution to help educate the entire prison population about AIDS. We have named it *Prisoners AIDS Awareness Project*. Little by little the gay brothers are telling my friend and I that they want to help. I strongly feel this project will be a success in helping save lives, and uniting our community in this prison.

Our project's most important goal is to educate as many people as want to be

educated about AIDS prevention. We need the help of those in the free world to make this project work. We need all types of AIDS education and prevention publications to distribute, so we may learn and teach from them.

Your advice, questions, comments and thoughts are very much welcomed, and will be responded to.

This silence must not continue. We must unite and survive.

Billy D. Cates
864126
PO Box 41
Michigan City, IN 46360

Tribute to Ian Johnson

Ian Johnson, whose name was usually followed by the words "founding member of ...," died in Los Angeles in March. Below is a tribute to one of GCN's founders by some former staff members who worked with him in the early- and mid-1970s.

'With Ian's input, this little rag survived'

By Laura McMurray

When I met Ian in 1973, his red hair was long and he wore tank tops and sandals and got a lot of sun. One of my main interactions with him was at monthly Saturday morning gay community brunches at the Charles Street Meeting House in Boston, then a haven for gay activities.

Ian was always full of plans and ideas, and he was persuasive. He had the nerve to start the first gay weekly newspaper in Boston at a time when people wondered if a weekly paper could succeed. At that time there were just monthly group newsletters or magazines (Homophile Union of Boston, Daughters of Bilitis, Student Homophile League) that went to members, but timely news had to be passed by flyers or word of mouth. The first couple of issues of *Gay Community News* were mimeographed by hand, which alone seemed enough to kill off the founders from exhaustion (or so I thought at the time). With Ian's input, this little rag survived; people actually bought it and wrote for it.

One of my recollections about Ian is about eating. We were munching at one of the brunches. Ian said he didn't really like to eat. Eating was a nuisance. Several times every day you had to stop and go find and chew up some food, which was a great waste of time. Now it occurs to me to wonder how he viewed smoking, since he was a dedicated smoker.

Another project we were involved with was Otherfund, a proposed Gay United Fund. I think much of the originating of this idea was Ian's. Lots of people attended many meetings to discuss the fund. Although this was a project that eventually fell by the wayside, it was an example of Ian's knack for going for something big and getting people involved.

I found Ian open minded and willing to listen to an opposing view. He was certainly bright, and he was dedicated. I liked him. Maybe the thing about him that appealed to me most was his adventuresome spirit. □

'Most of us quit at least once'

By John Kyper

Was it really 16 years ago that I first met Ian Johnson? For many of us who were here then, the summer of 1973 was a time of magic, when Boston's gay community finally began to come together after several years of false starts. We found a community center of sorts in the Charles Street Meeting House, which hosted regular dances and served as a focus for organizing. The Coffeehouse downstairs soon became a social center where people could drop in and connect.

Unfortunately, this attempt at a community center later fell apart, but not before it had formed an offshoot that was destined to outlive it. My introduction to *GCN*, and Ian, arrived at my Dorchester home in the form of a five-page mimeographed sheet called the *Gay Community Newsletter*. A couple of weeks later, hanging around the Coffeehouse, I happened into a back room that was serving as an office, and I was drafted to help collate and staple issue #3.

Ian Johnson was *GCN*'s first editor. With his flaming red, shoulder-length hair and occasionally abrasive temperament, he was the one chosen to ride herd on the motley collection of demented but inspired volunteers struggling to bring out a weekly newspaper with practically no capital investment. The first nine months at Charles Street were touch-and-go. Most of us quit at least once, what with the aggravation of trying to put out a newspaper in such cramped quarters. Wonder of wonders, we continued, and we remained a weekly paper.

Ian, who once told me he was a former business student, was also instrumental in



plotting the newspaper's expansion and its establishment on a firmer financial footing. To survive volunteer burnout, *GCN* needed to hire a full-time staff and move into a larger space of its own. Both were accomplished under his tutelage, as was the switch to newsprint, which greatly enhanced its credibility.

After the move to *GCN*'s new offices at Bromfield Street, I was for a time closely involved with the day-to-day operation of the paper. My lover became office manager, and the tension of repeated, endless meetings and deferred paychecks affected our lives. Ours was not the only relationship to suffer; Ian and several others were experiencing many of the same strains and ruptures.

Finally, by late 1974 the entire staff had resigned in exhaustion and the paper was on the verge of folding. But the structure Ian had built enabled *GCN* to survive the crisis, and an influx of new people propitiously took up where the founders had left off. In a 1978 interview with Eric Rofes at the time of *GCN*'s fifth anniversary, Ian spoke about his earlier experiences:

I had been involved in a lot of different things. I'd worked in crisis interventions; I'd worked in drug centers; I'd worked with [Eugene] McCarthy. But being gay, and never really being able to deal with it in those contexts, there was always this "hidden thing." There was a part of me, but it wasn't really relevant to what I was doing. When I started working at GCN, there was nothing that I was withholding. □

Fort Hill days

By Walter J. Krueckl

This period of Ian's life from 1978-1987 was preoccupied with building a home and a community. In the spring of 1978 Ian and I arrived here from San Francisco, and while staying at a friend's house were introduced to this strange and unique community that would soon consume so much of our energy. On a whim and a prayer, we bought our old fallen down Greek Revival house, known then as the "Pleasure Dome," and proceeded to begin the endless work of making livable and restoring this relic of another era.

It did not, however, take long before we realized that the community we moved into needed just as much work, if not more, as our old house. Thus began a social experiment to build a web of democratically elected grassroots organizations to protect and work for the welfare of this diverse, low-income, minority community.

Before long, we found ourselves organizing our neighbors to fight against growing numbers of rapes and arsons, both of which were resulting in the displacement of so many of our neighbors. One could write a book alone on these struggles. Let it suffice to say that in these efforts, we organized a neighborhood crime watch and patrol, organized the Linwood Hill Neighborhood Association, and re-established the larger Roxbury Highlands Neighborhood Association. We also found ourselves re-establishing a much-needed Unitarian-Universalist congregation at the First Church in Roxbury, of which Ian was the founding president. We were also instrumental in establishing the Roxbury Highlands Historical Society, The Joint Planning and Development Review Committee, and the

Continued on page 12

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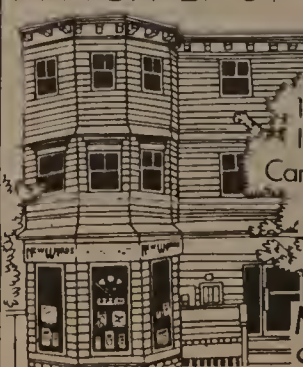
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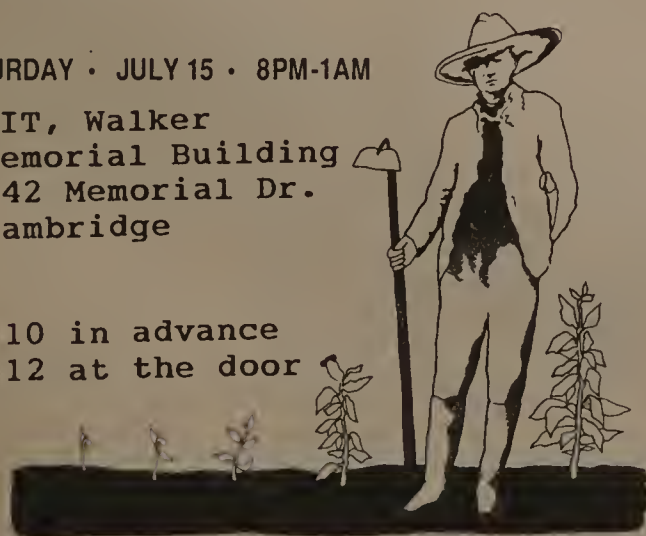
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Assimilation: a healthy stage in gay and lesbian life?

Neil Miller's book leaves unexplored the sociological and political context of openly gay and lesbian people in rural America



Neil Miller

In Search of Gay America: Women and Men in a Time of Change

Neil Miller

Atlantic Monthly Press, NY, 1989
\$18.95 cloth, 309pp.

Reviewed by Donald Stone

According to its author, this book was born of an observation and a question. Over the course of the 1980s, Miller noted that the "gay community seemed to be following the pattern of assimilation of ethnic groups and other minorities that had gradually fought their way to some modicum of social acceptance." It was a pattern that involved forming long-term, monogamous relationships, moving to the suburbs and founding nuclear families. Were, Miller wondered, these changes he had observed in Boston occurring elsewhere, outside the large cities on the East and West Coasts? *In Search of Gay America* recounts the travels he undertook to answer that question.

Potential readers of this study should know also that the book grew out of its author's belief that these changes in the gay

community represent "a new and essentially healthy stage in gay and lesbian life." As a result, nothing Miller experiences on the road brings him to revise (or even examine) that initial conviction. Because Gene Ulrich has willingly settled in Bunceton, Missouri, won the office of mayor as an openly gay man, and brought into being a five-acre city park, he emerges from the text unchallenged, even though it does surface that he would not testify in favor of a gay rights proposal for the nearby university town of Columbia and deplores holding hands in public. "I don't believe in that. I don't believe straight people should do that either. That is the way I was raised." The story of Isaiah Poole unfolds in a similar fashion. It concludes as Miller reflects on how Isaiah "had come home" by discovering a Black gay evangelical church which would affirm "his pride in his homosexuality and in his blackness." Miller notes that "home" represents as well a place where absolute distinctions are made: the world is divided between those who have accepted Jesus and those who have not. "One might have expected," Miller adds, "that an acceptance of oneself as gay, an affirmation of sexual variety and diversity, would lead to a less rigid view of human beings and their place in the universe." However, Isaiah needed a theology without "ambiguities"

and Miller's sense of that need apparently causes him to suspend any further reflection.

Yet Miller is not always quite so charitable. Whereas we leave Gene and Isaiah after having been assured by the author that these men have done what was right for them, discussion of lesbian parenting ends on an interrogative note: "Still, I couldn't help but speculate on how Emma Claire and all the children of these unusual parenting arrangements would turn out. Would they feel embarrassed about their parents? Protective? Proud?" These remarks point directly at two of the most perplexing features of Miller's book. On the one hand, they highlight the fact that some groups or individuals provoke a critical response from Miller whereas others do not (even when case studies like Gene and Isaiah contain material that could so easily have given rise to extended comment). On the other hand, the questions and use of the phrase "unusual parenting arrangements" to describe an aspect of the "pattern of assimilation" once called "a new and essentially healthy stage in gay and lesbian life" set the reader to wondering just where Miller stands vis-a-vis his subject.

As annoying as these contradictions are, however, in the end they are only early warnings of a far more substantial peculiarity of the study. Determined, it seems, to trace a continuity in change between urban and rural gay populations and to stress the "healthy" quality of that change, Miller leaves unexplored the sociological and political context of his discovery of openly gay and lesbian people in rural America.

When, for example, Gene Ulrich explains his rejection of hand-holding in public by saying, "That is the way I was raised," it seems certain that a host of gay and lesbian readers will reflect on how they, too, were raised that way (and to reject and despise an even wider range of activities related to sexual behavior). But those men and women grew up and moved beyond such prejudices, as well as the county line. Miller knows about that exodus: "I was accustomed to assuming that a gay life required a pulling up of roots, a breaking with the past.... I was finding the opposite." Had the book been willing to examine the implications behind the verb "required" and set them against the cast of mind that brought Gene to persist in accepting the way he was raised (or Isaiah to place salvation over tolerance), Miller's study might have produced the in-depth investigation into American gay life its title announces. Instead, *In Search of Gay*

Continued on page 10



Amy Hoffman

Ellen Shub

Gay Community News Celebrates its 17th Birthday!

MY INTERVIEW

...When I arrived at the *Gay Weekly* office, the only person there was a pale man with thinning reddish hair and a neatly-trimmed beard. He was wearing a shirt that somehow exactly matched the color of his faded hair. He had a telephone clenched between his collarbone and his left ear, another draped over his right shoulder, and a third squawking into his crotch.

"I'll call the envelope supplier and reprimand him as soon as we hang up, dear," he said. "Obviously the glue was defective." He sipped from a paper container of coffee on the desk. The coffee had a skin on it. "Yes, I suppose it's possible that your mailman has figured it out, but I really don't think it's worth selling the house over." He looked over at me and rolled his eyes. "Why not think of it this way — the uniform can be quite exciting." He replaced the receiver

and shrugged the phone on his other shoulder up to his ear. "Try Saddle 'n' Spurs and if you don't have any luck, there's always the bushes after closing." He read out some street directions. "Have a nice day yourself. It's a felony in this state for me to tell you any of this."

He stood up and the phone on his lap slid to the floor. "Help you?"

"I'm here for the job interview," I said. I wondered if I had gotten the time mixed up. Edward had led me to expect more people. "Sara Bookbinder."

"Francis Conlin." He shook my hand. "Office manager, circulation. Etc." He handed me a manuscript and a red pen. "They want you to take an editing test, make sure you can read, write, demonstrate that you've mastered the advanced skills needed for this position."

"I used to work at *Susan B.'s*

Dear GCN,

Thanks for asking me, as a former editor, to write something for the GCN birthday issue this year. Unfortunately, I couldn't think of a thing to say about *Gay Community News*, so instead I am submitting a chapter from my novel-in-progress, which takes place at a completely fictitious gay newspaper called the *Gay Weekly* in Boston during 1978.

In this chapter, the narrator, Sara Bookbinder, arrives at the *Weekly's* office for a job interview. She has just had a run of bad luck: the feminist paper that she was involved in, *Susan B.'s Daughters*, folded because of a lesbian-straight split; her lover, Diana, left her; and she lost her job. To console her, an older lesbian friend she knows from work, Marion, invites her to accompany her and her lover, Pat, to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. At the Festival it rains so much that they leave before they hear any womyn's music, but not before Sara sees a poster advertising a job opening at the *Gay Weekly* back home. She's concerned about the paper's reputation for being male-dominated, but she's heard that there's at least one woman working there, Ramona, and she figures she can teach the men a thing or two about feminism. When she calls and speaks to the Managing Editor, Edward, they immediately have a tiff about the sexual politics of his calling her "doll," and about the class politics of his telling her that she can get used to living on \$70.00 a week. Nevertheless, Sara decides to go through with the application.

Any resemblance to any real person, place, or thing, is, of course, purely coincidental.

Love,
Amy

Daughters," I told him.

"Ah, experienced!" he said. "Our sister journal. Well don't get too excited. The only thing that counts with these girls is your politics." He looked around the room. "You can sit over there by the window. Take your time."

He turned away from me and picked up the phone on the floor. "Sister Anthony?" he said. "I promise. I'm scratching your name off our mailing list right this instant." He drew some boxes on a scrap of paper. "A kid's prank, Sister. Yes. You're right, we're vile." He hung up the phone and drank off the rest of the coffee. "Oh, Mary," he sighed. A phone rang.

I don't remember what the office looked like to me the first time I saw it. Like a mess, probably. Bundles of newspapers and boxes of envelopes were piled up all over the place. The desks were dusty, with drawers missing.

There were telephones everywhere and wires and extension cords snaking around the floor and tangling in knots in the corners. Only three of the telephones had been officially installed by the phone company. All of the others had been rigged up illegally, so that whenever one broke, the whole system had to be dismantled before anyone official could be allowed in to fix it. Once a thing was hung on the wall it was never removed: letters, leaflets, posters, pictures, poems, a jockstrap, buttons, banners, last week's headlines, next week's news, newspaper clippings, newspapers, Doonesbury comics, Calvin Klein underwear ads, telephone messages, shopping lists, a styrofoam Elaine-Noble-for-State-Rep. hat, a magic wand that leaked glitter onto everybody's hair. The ceiling was the original stamped tin. Filthy.

Against one wall was a sagging, greenish

GAY WEEKLY

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JUNE 24, 1978

Judge Denies Receiving Warning Bonin Trial Continues

BOSTON — As the misconduct trial for suspended Superior Court Chief Justice Robert M. Bonin continued last week before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, officials of the Boston/Boise Committee (BBC) have become more and more concerned that there are, in effect, two trials going on: The



the evening's proceeds to benefit the "Revere defendants." Meserve made repeatedly snide remarks and rhetorically asked, "Do you remember when we used to call them fairies?"

BBC co-chairperson Tom Reeves told the court numerous times that the group is not a defense committee, although nearly every Boston media outlet continues to report otherwise. Reeves said that BBC's sponsorship of the National Jury Project — which is now, according to committee sources, less certain than ever — was not part of a defense strategy, but would be designed "so that the whole gay community would benefit

Fiction

couch that had lumps of cotton batting leaking out of its arms. One morning I would come into work to discover that it opened into a bed covered with a cheerfully flowered sheet.

"Francis, that slut," said Edward as he folded up the mattress. "I doubt this sheet has ever been washed."

"It doesn't look dirty," I said.

"Isn't that always the way," said Edward.

People came and went all the time from the *Weekly*, and some tried to leave their mark on it, but it resisted all of us, remaining distinctly itself, as it had always been. Certain people, or tendencies in the community, might fall in or out of favor with the staff, but the office took them all in, whether we liked them or not. The dyke poet who defaced the window display in the Harvard Square Booksmith with chicken blood because they carried *Playboy*, the voyeuristic security guard from the ladies dressing room at Filene's around the corner, the manager of Saddle 'n' Spurs who would pay for the ads he took out only if french-kissed by Simon, our sales rep — everyone liked to eat lunch at the office. Peanut butter sandwiches in brown paper bags, Wendy's cheeseburgers, eight ounces of peach melba yogurt and a Tab.

I sat down at the desk Francis had

GAY WEEKLY

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JUNE 17, 1978

THE GAY WEEKLY 50¢



Once a thing was hung on the wall it was never removed: letters, leaflets, posters, pictures, poems, a jockstrap, buttons, banners, last week's headlines, next week's news, newspaper clippings, newspapers, Doonesbury comics, Calvin Klein underwear ads, telephones messages, shopping lists, a styrofoam Elaine-Noble-for-State-Rep. hat, a magic wand that leaked glitter onto everybody's hair.

directed me to. Next to me was tacked a motto scrawled in purple marker on a shirt-cardboard:

Try again. Fail again. Fail better.

— Beckett

I wanted to rearrange some of the paragraphs in the editing test, which was a rambling movie review with a lot of obviously misspelled words thrown in, and I looked through the drawers of the desk for a scissors. There was none — just a lot of un-bent paper clips, a copy of *The New York Times* Women's Fashion Supplement, and a half-empty pint of Jack Daniels. I heard a loud groan from out in the hall, and a cloud of smoke drifted through the office door.

"Darlings, help me!" someone called. "These stairs will be my death!" A man with circles under his big brown eyes and a head full of messy black curls came in and squashed out his cigarette on the inside of a wastepaper basket. He wore a filmy chartrreuse blouse and a tight pair of jeans faded along the fly. A rhinestone heart flashed from one of his ears. Bacall-like, he reclined on the front desk. "Francine, dear," he said. "Who's that sitting in Ramona's chair?"

"Baby bear," said Francis. "She's here for the job. And she needs some quiet to work on the editing test."

"I must speak to her." He jumped up from the desk and approached me. "Angel Mancini," he said. "Mistress of Art. At your service."

"Sara Bookbinder," I said. "I'm applying to be Features Editor." My words sounded very plain, compared to Angel's.

"I'm charmed, my dear." He clasped my hands in both of his and beamed at me. "A dykette in Features. What a grand idea." He glanced over at Francis. "Fellows, Angel approves! Dispense with the interrogation!" He waved his hand. Then he said, "You really mustn't sit at this desk, you know."

"Will someone mind?"

"No, no, no," said Angel. "But only Mona the Mad would sit in front of this window." Angel pointed at the pane over my head. There were two small round holes in it. Daisy petals had been drawn around each one. She loves me; she loves me not. "Homophobes," Angel explained. I realized that all the other desks were crowded into the back of the room.

People were arriving for the interview. "Angel!" said one woman. "Are you trying

to scare this poor *Susan B.*-girl with your stories about bullet holes?"

"This is Ramona, Sara," said Angel. "Editrix of News."

Ramona inspected me deliberately, ending by gazing into my eyes. "Hello," she said. "Sara." Her irises were ambiguous — not green, not brown. I looked away, and she laughed. "Those holes have been in that window since this place was built."

"Stuff and nonsense, Mona," said Angel. "We came in one morning and there they were. Did the cops investigate? No!"

"Here's Edward," Ramona interrupted him. "Let's get this over with. Edward!" she called. "The victim's over here, at my desk!"

Ramona had thin brown hair that straggled down her back and a broad, heart-shaped face. Her breasts always strained against her shirt and her hips against her jeans. Edward came over and dropped a stack of newspapers onto her desk and kissed her on the top of her head. Even when Ramona wore her black cowboy boots with the long pointed toes and the high stacked heels, she was still short.

"For you, doll," Edward said. "In case you were occupied and didn't read the papers over the weekend."

"I'm always occupied," said Ramona. "But I always read the papers. The girls don't like it, but they just have to wait."

"You know I have to check up on everybody," said Edward. "I can't help it."

Ramona shook her head. "It's okay, Edward. If you didn't do this every week, we might run low on recyclable material."

"Okay, kids," Edward called. He surveyed the room and stretched out his long arms as if to embrace everyone in it. "We can start now." For the first time, he looked at me.

"I'm the victim," I said.

"Don't worry about a thing, doll," he said. "You've got a great resume, and if we don't hire a woman for this slot we'll be lynched. I've been lobbying madly for you."

"Lynched?" I said.

"A figure of speech," said Edward. "Ramona needs a playmate."

"Playmate!"

Edward began to laugh at me.

The way they did the interviews at the *Gay Weekly* in those days was that a lot of people

— staff, volunteers — showed up to ask questions, and then at the end they all voted. It should have been intimidating, yet that evening I felt as though the dim planets over Boston must have aligned themselves just for me. All these people quizzing me about sodomy and socialism and dyke separatists and drag and gay Democrats and gay Republicans and pedophilia and lesbian softball and gay bars and Anita Bryant and did I find semi-colons patriarchal and did I know what a gerund was and did I do paste-up and what if someone submitted an article attacking men, or women, or the Boston police commissioner — and I felt as though I'd swallowed some lovely drug, which had graced me with insight, wit, affability.

I had an audience.

"The reason why gay men are oppressed is because women are oppressed," I blabbed. "They are seen to be like women."

"They get fucked!" said Angel.

"Some of them," said Francis.

"They love it," said Ramona.

"So gay men can learn from feminists. About patriarchy and misogyny and human relationships," I continued on.

My father picked up the extension. "How much are you getting paid?"

"I'll manage."

"Not much," he concluded. "And what about your resume?"

"What about it?" I said.

"What are you going to tell people you do? How will you find another job after this?"

"I'll tell them the truth, Dad. If they don't like it, I won't work for them."

"You're ruining all your chances in life," said my mother. "I'm saying this because I love you, Sara."

"Ma," I said, "You should be proud I can get a job like this."

"What am I supposed to tell people you do?" she said.

"Whatever the fuck you want!" I yelled. "Don't you ever speak to your mother like that!" yelled my father.

I slammed down the phone. It rang immediately. "What!" I shouted.

"Hello?" said Edward.

"I thought you were my parents," I said. "I just hung up on them."

"I'm calling to offer you the job,"

The dyke poet who defaced the window display in the Harvard Square Booksmith with chicken blood because they carried Playboy, the voyeuristic security guard from the ladies' dressing room at Filene's around the corner, the manager of Saddle 'n' Spurs who would pay for the ads he took out only if french-kissed by Simon, our sales rep — everybody liked to eat lunch at the office.

"Brava!" said Ramona. "Enough! I say we adjourn." She stood up.

Everyone began talking at once. "Any other questions?" said Edward. No one paid any attention to him. "Intermission, kids," he said.

He turned to me. "You were great. I'll be in touch."

*

When I got home, I called my parents. "I think I have a job, Ma," I told my mother. "I'm so glad," she said. "What is it?"

"Features Editor," I said.

"Wonderful, dear. It sounds very interesting."

"At a gay newspaper."

"What do you mean, a gay newspaper?"

"For gay people, Ma, you know."

"Why do you want to work at a place like that?"

"Ma, we've talked about this."

"I thought that was over, with your friend."

"That doesn't change anything," I said.

"What did you think, that I was going through a stage?"

said Edward.

"I've never done that before," I said. "Do you think it's some kind of landmark of maturity?"

"Everyone loved you," said Edward.

"Love," I said. "What does your mother tell people when they ask her where her son works?"

"*Gay Weekly*," said Edward.

"I have to think about the money," I said. "My resume. My career. That kind of thing."

"But when will you be ready to start?" said Edward. □

BY AMY HOFFMAN

Miller

Continued from page 7

America keeps moving back and forth between city and country, skirting the differences between them, as if to imply that there is, indeed, only one "Gay America" and to play down Miller's own evidence to the contrary.

Among the many individual stories included here, no rural account can match the brilliance of those segments in which Susie Bright relates her odyssey though the politics of lesbian sex and Joan Nestle discusses her view of the butch-femme dynamic. And to these passages, as examples of the best of Miller's pages, must be added the saga of Rose Mary Denman's confrontation with the United Methodist Church in New Hampshire and the dilemma of three *lesbianas latinas* in San Antonio. All are in their way stories of revolt and struggle, a struggle fueled by the individuals' unwillingness to dissociate discoveries about the self from an exploration of new values and new perspectives. For this reason alone, these interviews stand in stark contrast to the portrait of those who have made peace with their origins. They also help us define some of the background to that contrast.

"To survive here," notes a woman living in Fargo, North Dakota, "you have to have more than one identity. You focus less than in big cities on one element of yourself. Here nothing is a single identifier. I am a teacher, a lesbian, an activist, a person interested in music. And I need to spend time with people who affirm all these." That last sentence points to a thread that runs through many of Miller's interviews outside the large coastal cities: the need to spend time with individuals who share the same roots and the same interests, often at the expense of de-emphasizing one's sexual preference and foregoing sustained contact with other lesbians and gay men. The need can even lead individuals to tolerate evident contradictions in their lives. Nick, a church elder in Louisville, works for a tobacco company,

Abortion

Continued from page 3

observer noted that it was as if "the community needed time to absorb the shock and realize the full force of its anger." Hours after the demonstration had dispersed, activists were still piecing together the chain of events.

As speakers addressed the crowd, estimated at over 3,000, the throng gradually spilled off the State House steps and sidewalk onto Beacon Street. While Mass. Choice members asked people to clear a path, demonstrators independently claimed the street as their own. As police attempted to get the holiday traffic through, demonstrators sat down, refusing to yield. After failing to move the demonstrators, the



Within hours after the Supreme Court handed down its decision abortion rights activists protested police attempted to drive police vehicles into the crowd. One vehicle was immediately surrounded by protesters, isolating the car from the rest of the police force. As the protesters grew increasingly boisterous and angry, one woman stood up and burned a small American flag while the crowd yelled, "American flags have more rights than women!" in reference to the proposed amendment to the Constitution to protect the flag from desecration.

In an attempt to clear the way for the police car, officers arrested one man, Aaron Hsu-Flanders. Many protesters were immediately on their feet, shouting, "Let him go!" Eyewitnesses told *GCN* that the police began violently throwing people aside, apparently disregarding reminders from pro-

explaining, "That is the Kentuckian in me." On occasion, the sexual self is neglected. A lesbian in Selma, Alabama, persists in her closeted and circumscribed existence because of the importance for her of being accepted by the community of that small town.

There is no little irony in the fact that Miller characterizes the life of this Alabama woman and her equally closeted gay male friends as reminiscent of a time that is past. Once he finds towns where men are out and married (to each other), not only does the new rural gay life come into focus, it also becomes downright heroic: "I was off in the remote, proud Dakotas, where everyone knew everyone and where living outside of social norms required courage and determination." Perhaps, but would it not have been useful to define the social norms in question, if only to assess the precise difference between that time past and the "time of change" under examination? Over and over it seems that Miller's subjects are successfully different in certain ways only because they are utterly the same as their neighbors in others (decrying the public display of affection, for example). Or, to make the same point through Miller's portrait of Gene Ulrich's lover: "My strongest impression was one of him slumped in a chair in the living room, watching wrestling matches on TV and trying to get a jump on his Christmas presents by knitting an afghan."

It may well be that a conservative straight readership (which one suspects is the targeted audience here) will feel reassured to learn that its world is being so faithfully reenacted by a segment of a gay community. But to everyone else the implication running throughout *In Search of Gay America* that this behavior equals a "healthy stage" in the history of homosexuality may provide only one more example that today's "time of change" is really a turn for the worse. □

testers that, "The whole world is watching!" Many demonstrators later showed bruises and scars as testaments of police handling. For gay men and lesbians, the scramble resembled the acts of civil disobedience at the State House in 1987 and 1988 when police disregard for protesters was documented by eyewitnesses and TV cameras.

After a fifteen minute standstill, apparently at the request of both Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy and Boston City Counselor David Scondras, the police began to reverse their vehicles, and protesters immediately roared at the victory. The quiescence was only temporary, however, as demonstrators

followed the vehicles and a second arrest, involving more violence than the first, was made. According to some eyewitnesses, Andrew Klatt attempted to prevent the police from taking Hsu-Flanders by pursuing the police car. Klatt was then surrounded by approximately six officers, one of whom threw Klatt to the ground and held him in a headlock while others grabbed Klatt's arms and legs. Still another protester was nearly run over as he ran in front of the police van carrying Klatt.

With the retreat of the police, the pro-choice crowd took the streets shouting, "They've got the courts; we've got the streets!" With no apparent leadership or organization, protesters wound their way

Continued on page 11

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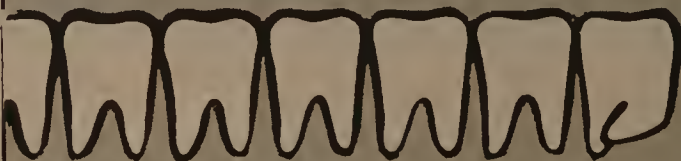
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Dykes to Watch Out For



Incidents of police violence broke out at the July 4 protest

Abortion

Continued from page 10

through the cars backed-up on Beacon and then Charles Street, preventing traffic from moving. Spontaneous decision-making eventually led the throng to the Area A police headquarters where Hsu-Flanders and Klatt had been taken. There, Hsu-Flanders told the crowd that he had posted bail and been released. He also told GCN that "[The experience] was unbelievable. It was scary as hell to see how much violence [the police] would use to arrest me rather than let me go." Klatt was also released, visibly shaken by the experience. Klatt told GCN that he had been charged with assault and battery on a police officer.

Approximately 700 people continued the impromptu march back to the State House and on to the Charles River Esplanade, where much of Boston had gathered for the traditional Independence Day celebration. Picking up at least 300 additional protesters along the route, marchers encouraged picknickers to "Stand up for choice!", and many did. While several groups of people on the Esplanade shouted anti-abortion slogans at the marchers, the column met with virtually no real opposition until it reached the Hatch Memorial Shell. There, according to news sources, Metropolitan District Police had called in about 40 additional officers who stood behind barricades

surrounding the Shell. The demonstrators stood face-to-face with the police across the barricades, clearly disrupting those who had come as early as pre-dawn to the Esplanade for "choice" concert seats. While rumors circulated that protesters would be allowed a speaker on-stage, this never actually materialized and the march continued on through the Esplanade.

Strategies for the future

What the holiday's events suggest is that while anti-abortion forces may have won this battle, and may in fact win the next, they have not won the war. Pro-choice activists showed their fury at the demonstrations on Monday and Tuesday. These demonstrations also suggest the potential for the Webster decision to both mobilize and radicalize the pro-choice community. NOW, Mass. Choice and R2N2 have all pledged their commitment to see the struggle through, and are already planning future actions. Activists agreed that a continued pro-choice presence at health clinics throughout Massachusetts and throughout the country is central to future tactics. Speakers at both demonstrations emphasized that the abortion issue is now a litmus test for many voters throughout the state as they approach the upcoming elections. As Evelyn Murphy pointed out on Tuesday, no candidate will be able to remain neutral or silent on this issue. □

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Ian Johnson tribute Fort Hill days

Continued from page 6

First Church Organ Restoration Committee.

In the early 1980s, the State proposed to build Roxbury Community College in our community, and threatened to take some 24 homes by eminent domain, allowing institutional expansion to dominate our residential neighborhood. As a result of this threatened encroachment, Ian was one of the key organizers who helped form Residents Against Displacement (RAD). After much difficult organizing in this very diverse community, RAD hired lawyers, and threatened to file for a very costly environmental impact statement which would have set back the construction of the college by several years. The state suddenly gave in, and returned to its original plans.

A few years later the State once again presented the specter of government intrusion, in the form of a pseudo-crisis over gay foster parenting. This controversy, with its many ramifications for the larger community, weighed heavily upon the Fort Hill community, the First Church in Roxbury, and the community organizations. Ian was there, as usual, working to protect the gay couple, our friends and neighbors, at the center of this attack. In spite of a noble attempt at holding the pieces together, this crisis, coming upon the heels of so many others, brought irreparable damage still evident to this day to the Fort Hill community.

The ten years we spent in Fort Hill were consumed with board meetings, neighborhood clean-ups, newsletters, mailings, elections, awards dinners, retreats, and endless meetings. The toll this thankless volunteer work extracted from both of us and from our relationship was perhaps too great a price to pay. Nonetheless, it left the Fort Hill community with numerous organizations, many victories, and a new sense of community, purpose, and direction. Thank you, Ian. □

‘Ian and people like Ian who saw social injustice and acted’

By Marion Tholander

Dave Peterson called. Ian is dead. And I think, what will the community do ... what should it do?

I remember the years I worked for *GCN*, with Ian ... remember all the calls, the cards ... every week, two or three at least. Cards and calls thanking *GCN* for being there, for giving support, for letting gay kids, elders and all the in-betweeners know that they were not alone. That it was okay to be gay. Giving them courage to be and giving them a chance to experience pride in themselves. Prisoners from all over the country writing ... requesting copies ... telling us how glad they were that *GCN* existed. It helped them to deal with their isolation and loneliness.

And, of course, *GCN* existed because of Ian, because of Ian and a group of dedicated radicals just like him. People who worked hard not for financial gain, but for social change. And social change they got ... thank not god but Ian. Ian and people like Ian who saw social injustice and acted and reacted.

And thank Ian and all the people who came after him who still work for social change. Could these people who came after Ian be the card writers, the callers, the prisoners? I would like to think so. I would like to think that when they heard of Ian’s death, they mourned. Ian’s life touched thousands and thousands of people’s lives. I wish his death could do no less. □

‘A special being has moved through our lives’

By satya littlebear

I knew Ian in the early days of *GCN* (1973-1974), and last saw him last year in Los Angeles where I stayed overnight on his couch. He was as bubbly and witty as ever. Like so many of us from those early days,

we would always be family, though years might go by without some of us seeing each other.

Ian’s death reminds us how isolated many of us feel, even if we are loved and respected, as Ian was. Sometimes we feel powerless to reach out and ask for help.

On my wall, I still have the picture of the *GCN* staff of 1973. Ian is in the front row, with his beautiful long red hair over his shoulders, as was the style of most Gay men in the early days of the modern Lesbian and Gay rights movement. He is surrounded in the photo by the other lovable loonies of *GCN*, some in nun’s outfits, others in straight-jackets (aptly named), some with no clothes at all, and some hiding their faces so as to keep their jobs. We were brought together in a turbulent and exciting era, each person dedicated to truth in her or his own way, each wanting to create a world of greater dignity for each person. When someone such as Ian passes on, that magical era seems even more dreamlike.

Ian was the brains of the paper, the business manager/accountant. He kept the paper solvent in those days when staff salaries were something like 200 dollars a month for more-than-full-time work. Ian’s energies were an important factor in keeping *GCN* afloat. His boundless exuberance permeated the office. Ian always had a smile, always had time to schmooze. He made things happen, was constantly innovative, and was a clear communicator. He was never too busy to help someone else.

These seem like stereotypical, nice things to say of one who has dropped the mortal coil, yet we who knew Ian, know that a special being has moved through our lives. Right now he’s agitating those gods and goddesses to get off their asses and set this old world on track once again. □

Tearoom

Continued from page 1

there are rarely any witnesses.” He said that in court the matter comes down to the testimony of a police officer versus the testimony of a person charged with a public sex crime.

Cathcart also said while the chances of public sex laws being repealed in the near future are slim, it is important for people to know the facts about these kinds of arrests because they raise political and policy issues about the use of law enforcement resources. “At a time when a lot of police energy is going into entrapment and surveillance of men who may be having sex in the bushes somewhere, people might wonder why the police couldn’t be spending their energy doing other things like directing traffic, stopping muggings or investigating crimes.” □

Fenway

Continued from page 3

cusations of racism.

Orlando issued a public apology, but members of a multi-cultural group of lesbian feminists remain skeptical about the FCHC’s commitment to anti-racism [see Speaking Out, p. 5].

After a talk with Orlando prior to the ground breaking, Angela Bowen, a member of the group, seemed cautiously hopeful, but not overly optimistic. “What I can say,” said Bowen, “is we look forward to working with the Fenway on issues of racism and sexism.”

At the end of the ceremony, the response from the multi-cultural group seemed unchanged. Group members Carla Poindexter and Jennifer Abod said that there is anti-racism work to be done at the FCHC and that their work is “cut out for them.”

“This is the agency that is here and this is the agency we struggle with,” said Abod. Bowen added, “I think their heart is in the right place.” The group hopes to meet with representatives from the FCHC in the near future.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, outgoing Northeastern University president Kenneth Ryder stepped forward to present Orlando with a check for 25,000 dollars — the first installment of the university’s 500,00-dollar donation to be paid over twenty years. □

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*Antigone, Nat.Comm.on US Corr, PO Box 308, Farmington MI 48332

*East-West Journal, Dept ST, Box 1200, Brookline Village, MA 02147

*Metropolitan Comm. Church, Box 7226, St Louis MO 63177 (only for prisoners in Ind, Ill, Iowa and MO)

*Minority Prisoner Project, 1973 Sipes St, Memphis, TN 38127 (for TV/TS prisoners)

HEY OUTSIDERS! Most of these penpal projects have lots more insiders than outsiders involved. How about spreading the word and getting your friends to write someone!

HEY PRISONERS! Things change, including penpal groups, so if you find some new ones or if one of these goes out of 'business', PLEASE let GCN know so we can keep this list up to date! THANKS!

LEGAL INFO: These publications are available from the Lewisburg Prison Project, Box 128, Lewisburg PA 17837:

- * Guide to Federal Parole
- * Paralegal Manual for Prisoner Advocacy: a training and reference guide
- * Legal Bulletins
- * Prisoners' Civil Actions in Federal Court
- * Due process standards for administrative detention.

The Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund will send revolutionary books, pamphlets and subscriptions to the *Revolutionary Worker*, for FREE! Write PRLF, RCP Publications, Box 3486, Chicago IL 60654, for catalog in both Spanish and English.

FREE AIDS info (monthly) from: GMHC, 129 W. 20th St., New York, NY 10011. Ask for "Treatment Issues"

...about those FAG RAGs...

The (three) Fag Ragers have fallen on hard times lately & we still hope to get some copies to you who asked for some, but ... it will be slow. (But it'll be Worth it!!)

PRISON DECISIONS is a monthly digest of cases in prison law. Available from Frank Merritt, University of Toledo, College of Law, 2801 W. Bancroft St, Toledo OH 43606.

Directory of Lawyer Referral Services, is a listing of lawyer services. Available from the American Bar Assoc, Division of Bar Services, 750 N. Lake Shore Dr, Chicago IL 60611. \$5.

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236-1848



I'm 25 and a very mature, educated, down to earth person. I'm seeking a true friendship. (I'm not allowed to write other prisoners.) Renee ('Prince') COLON, 161263, PO Box 8540 (537), Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

I'm 33, Capricorn, and would like to correspond with anyone who wants to express himself to a friend, especially inmates that has been struck by AIDS. I love Raegay, Rap, Jazz, music, all sports and wildlife. Anyone can write. Edonna TAYLOR, 21022, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.

Young lesbian seeking sincere friendship from anyone, anywhere. Like BMX, music, woodcraft, drawing and studying prisoners rights. Looking for good times? Write me and have Disneyland adventures (smile). Clara "Cece" WITTNER, A151937 Box 351, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Affectionate Transvestite, 31, seeks penpal. Hobbies incl. butterfly and coin collecting, and playing pool. I'm shy, not promiscuous, have a bus. mgmt degree and would like to find someone who wants a true friend. James Lee NEAVILLE, 20768-044, Box 4000, Springfield MO 65808.

Gay male, 37, would enjoy penpal letters from other gay and bisexual males and lesbians too for penpal friendship and moral support. We all must strive for our civil and human rights and be together as a community. I hope to hear from someone soon. Thank you. Glenn BENNETT, Old Folsom Prison, Box W/C-78588, Represa CA 95671.

I'm 25 and very, very beautiful and am looking for someone in the outside world to write. Timothy MAGGARD, 79538, MSU St. Rt. 22-B, Tucker AR 72168.

HIV and isolated and lonely. Would like to correspond with serious minded individuals. Frank D. LAVELLY, 163203, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

I am looking for friends and also for someone to develop a sincere and honest fun loving, open minded relationship with. Thanks. Brian FOWLER, 092327, MB 817, 1150 SW Allapat-tah Rd, Indiantown FL 34956.

Sexy youngster (29) looking for a big dick daddy from Cincinnati. Special turn ons for me are: foreskin, furry bodies, tattooed cock/body & bearded men in high heels. I'm looking for a few good friends. I have pierced nipples, tattoos. Are you my kind of woman? Gay cops write! Dennis ALSIN, C-38627, Box 8101, 1252X, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

Broadway and weightlifting

Gay man into Broadway, weightlifting, the ocean and sunbathing, looking for men who enjoy men, inside or out. I'm financially stable and would like some friendship. Bryce MOON, 485233, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.

Hello, I'm a very sweet and petite transsexual interested in men of any age, race. If you would just stop a few minutes and let us get to know one another, I'm sure we'll have a fabulous time! I want someone who wants to know about me and not who wants me just because I'm an attractive young TS. Hurry. Geri GRAHAM, 57393, Box 600, Canon City CO 81212. (Can write prisoners too!)

IN AN UNJUST STATE, THE ONLY PLACE FOR A JUST PERSON IS IN JAIL

GM, 32, who enjoys the out of doors (that is, when I can get out of doors!), would like a penpal from the streets (outside prison), ideally around Boston, as I hope to parole there eventually and would like some info about the area. James Rodney CODY, 257061, Box 520 (C-2-5 wing), Walla Walla WA 99362.

I wish to correspond with someone in the Gay world, even transsexuals, whom are able to understand my feelings. My hobbies are art, sex, bowling, movies, dinner with candles, talking, cuddling, cooking, music, photo-stamp collecting and plenty more. Please don't be shy. Alan HUSTED, 108721-N64, PO Box 699-W, Sneads FL 32460.

Lonely BI prisoner needs someone to write. I'm 30 yrs old and my interests are writing, chess, and paralegal studies. Will gladly write whoever writes. James WRIGHT, EF-126422, B-2 B Unit, Star Rt, Reidsville GA 30499.



Calendar



Susan Fleischmann

14 Friday □ Join friends and neighbors at a barbecue to benefit the re-election campaign of **David Scondras**. Swimming, dancing and entertainment at Sluice Pond in Lynn. 6pm-midnight. \$25. 267-2150.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet, if possible.

8 Saturday

Boston □ **MCC's Boat trip to Provincetown** leaves Commonwealth Pier at 9:30am. Leaves P-Town 3:30pm. \$25. 523-7664.

Northampton □ **Shelix** woman-to-woman S/M support group meets to discuss "Rewards and Punishments." (413) 584-7616.

Boston □ **Girth and Mirth** holds monthly social at Hill House. 74 Joy Street. 8pm. Members \$4/non-members \$6. Denis, 397- 0762.

9 Sunday

Boston □ **Downtown Lesbian Neighborhood group**. Picnic Brunch. All women who live, work or study in the South End/Back Bay/Downtown area welcome. 266-5169.

Somerville □ **GLOSS**, Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings potluck picnic and social gathering. Along bank of Mystic River. 4pm. Mike, 628-2643 or Cissy, 628-2825.

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of JP** potluck picnic at Jamaica Pond. 3:30pm Kenn, 524-0833.

11 Tuesday

Boston □ **AIDS Action Committee** Volunteer Open House. 131 Clarendon Street, 4th floor. 7pm. Larry Peterson, 437-6200, ext. 283

Boston □ **Sex and Intimacy Intensive**, Fenway Community Health Center. 16 Haviland Street. 6pm.

Boston □ **Lesbian School Teachers/Administrators** Potluck. 6:30pm. 323-1536.

Arlington □ **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** meets at First Parish Unitarian Church. 630 Mass. Avenue. 7:15pm. 547-2440 or (508) 562-5807.

12 Wednesday

Boston □ **Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays** meets at GCN, 62 Berkeley, near Back Bay and Arlington T-stops. 6:30pm. Bi-weekly. Info: Carla, 524-3370.

Boston □ **Downtown Lesblan Lunchtime Cruise**, bring brownbag lunch. Noon at Whale near Aquarium. Boat costs \$1. Julie, 725-3562.

13 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St, near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

14 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St, near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

15 Saturday

Boston □ **BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch**, meet under the Chinatown Arch. 10:45am. \$6-8/person. 247-6683 (BIS-MOVE)

Boston □ **New England Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans** annual picnic at Georges Island. Leaves Longwharf Pier 9:30am sharp. \$6. RSVP: Cliff, 723-8127.

Boston □ **Prime Timers** organization for older gay males meets at Lindeinann Health Center, 25 Staniford Street. 2pm. \$1. Info: write D. Bourdeau, 604 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02118-1605.

Lynn □ **Scondras Campaign Barbecue** featuring comedienne Betsy Salkind. Sluice Pond. 6pm. \$25. 267-2150.

Lakeville □ **Gay Professional Women's Picnic** Donna, 585-6051.

16 Sunday

Cambridge □ **May Sarton** signs books at New Words Bookstore. 186 Hampshire Street. 3:30-5:30pm. 876-5310.

17 Monday

Cambridge □ **Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights** planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive (MIT Walker Memorial), Rm. 306. 7pm. Rich, 776-6956.

19 Wednesday

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of JP** meets for dinner at Doyle's Cafe, Washington Street. 6:30pm. Sue, 524-6335.

20 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, GCN: 617/426-4469.

21 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.

22 Saturday

Boston □ **Bisexual Network Co-ed Plcnic** at the Hatch Shell. Noon. Bring your own picnic. 247-6683(BIS-MOVE).

Cambridge □ **Summer in the City Women's Dance**. Drug, Alcohol and Smoke Free. D.J. Whitman, D.J. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9pm. \$5 more or less.

23 Sunday

Boston □ **People's Folk Festival** showcasing the best local musicians. Govt. Center. Sharon Sue Kleinan 265-3929.

Weekly Events

Saturday

Boston □ **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** new training session for hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ **SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense** for women of all ages, abilities. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. T.-Th. 6-8pm. 547-3889.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Collective** presents **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for all ages, abilities. Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons. 574-9433.

Boston □ **Gay Boston**, with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston □ **Body Electric**: Healing with group sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. 551 Tremont. 7:30pm. \$12. 522-9164.

Sunday

Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth** (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. 2-5pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ **Metro Healing healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston □ **"Boston's Other Voice,"** radio for Gay/Lesbian commity with Peter Stickel. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM. 7/9 Sleazy or Sex Positive. 7/16 Rev. Paul Diederich.

Boston □ **The Gay Dating Show**, WUNR 1600 AM. 2:30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

Monday

Cambridge □ **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap**. 7/10 Crafts/Creativity, 7/17 Racism. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, Rm. 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

Tuesday

Boston □ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st & 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics**. Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston □ **Lesbian and Gay Concert & Marching Band**. No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Cambridge □ **The Group** at Walker Memorial MIT on Memorial Drive. 8pm. 266-1129.

Providence, RI □ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

Roxbury □ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Rm. 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. 7/11 Body Image, 7/18 Co-dependency. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge □ **30-plus Lesbian Rap** 7-8:30pm. 7/11 Personal Space, 7/18 Games Lesbians Play. The Women's Center (see above).

Cambridge □ **Women For Sobriety**, a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807

Wednesday

Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics**. Mass. General Hosp., lower amphitheater 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Cambridge □ **"Say it, Sister!"** WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages, abilities. See Sat. listing.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

Cambridge □ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

Thursday

Northampton □ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham □ **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Cambridge □ **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes**. Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

Boston □ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ **Incest Survivors Group**. Women's Center (see above). 7:30-9:30pm.

Cambridge □ **Non-offending male sexual abuse survivors** group meets first Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

Friday

Worcester □ **AIDS Project-Worcester support group** for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston □ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Cambridge □ **Incest survivors group on death and grief**. Short-term. Women's center (see above). 7pm.

Cambridge □ **Women's Coffeehouse**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-midnight. 354-8807.

Calendar compiled by
Fredric Gorman



Two Nice Girls. By Two Nice Girls. Rough Trade, 1989.

By **Caroline Foty**

Amid the outpouring of new albums over the past six months, there have been records that turn away from the roots of progressive and feminist music, and records that hark back to those roots. Comes now an album that does a little of both, with a dash of weirdness that could only come from the 1980s.

Two Nice Girls is a three-woman band from Austin, Texas. (They say that they take turns being the one who isn't nice.)

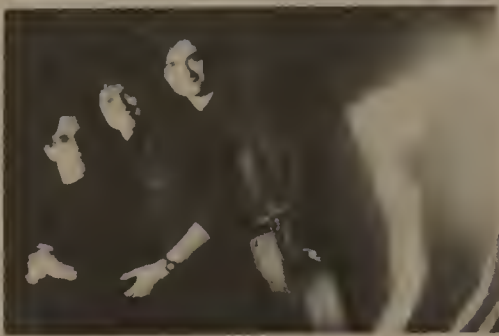
music Their debut album, *2 Nice Girls* (Rough Trade), however, demonstrates two distinct musical personalities. Unfortunately, we never really hear a fusion of those styles, which makes on the whole for a schizophrenic listening experience. Gretchen Phillips contributes songs with a country/rock/folk flavor and descriptive or story-telling texts, while Laurie Freeloove's music bears a closer resemblance to the synthesizer-flooded art-rock of Jane Siberry or Laurie Anderson. How much you like this album will depend on the extent to which you appreciate both styles.

The outstanding musical strength of the album is its vocal arrangements, which the band's press material suggests is primarily the work of bass/guitar player Kathy Korniloff. Pairs and trios of voices weave and flow in harmony, always allowing the main tune to be clear but never relegating the other voices to the distant background.

Some of the album's high points include Freeloove's poetic "Heaven on Earth":

We are still longing/Soul after soul
Dancing in shadows/That fall from the moon
We are still yearning/Touch after touch
Reaching to heaven for/What's here on this earth

the perfect "Sweet Jane (With Affection)," merging tunes by Lou Reed and Joan Armatrading into a beautiful whole (it's no surprise that the Girls won a prize in the 1987 *Austin Chronicle* "Sweet Jane" competition with this arrangement); and the rib-tickling classic of the future, "I Spent My



'I spent my last \$10 on birth control and beer'

Two Nice Girls: out lesbians on the mainstream music scene

Last \$10.00 (On Birth Control and Beer)," a true country-western tune that manages to arouse sympathy for the plight of a dyke-

gone-straight, and point us back to queerness at the same time:

When I was a young girl/Like normal girls

do
I looked to a woman's love/To help get me through

My family they were proud of me/Were proud of what I am
But then along came Lester/And my tale of woe began

As I sit in this hetero honky-tonk/And reflect upon my past
I think about those girlfriends/And why they did not last
For there're certain thrills that lesbian love/Simply cannot supply
Like paying for abortions/From sperm gone awry

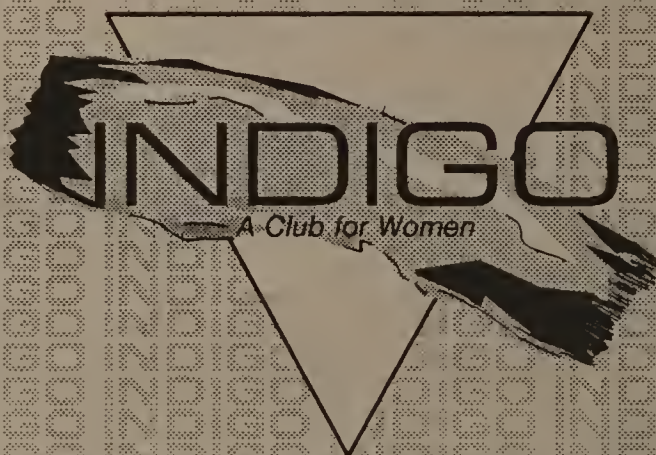
I spent my last ten dollars on birth control and beer
My life was so much simpler when I was sober and queer
But the love of a strong hairy man has turned my head I fear
And made me spend my last ten bucks on birth control and beer

While the tale unfolds, there is a constant background of sound effects that suggests a bar full of straight people not quite listening to the music. At the end, they are all encouraged to join in on the chorus. It's a marvelous and evocative touch of theater.

Phillips told *The Daily Texan*,

I look upon ["Last \$10"] as a very distressing song. I am surprised that it is met with any sort of enthusiasm, and it's only the humor that is the vaseline that makes the idea penetrate better. If they can laugh, that's OK, but I'm not really into writing songs any more that are put-downs like that. It doesn't paint a positive picture of heterosexuality, which my distorted picture was at that time, but isn't now.

Jim Fouratt, the band's New York-based manager, says, "Two Nice Girls didn't come out of the women's music scene. They chose to be part of the mainstream music scene as out lesbians." Often that sort of philosophy results in music that is "neither-nor": with nothing to say to lesbians but no real appeal to the semi-mythical "broader audience." It remains to be seen where this band will find their national audience. However, there is something very seductive about the scenario so vividly created in the arrangement of "Last \$10." Where will that kind of cultural assimilation lead? Perhaps the career of Two Nice Girls will give us an idea. □



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